making branches in places like Mandis, Taluks|District headquarters, agriculture produce centres etc., and to open extension counters and to install safe deposit lockers.

(v) 49 Regional Rural Banks have been identified for comprehensive restructuring.

Acquisition of real estate by foreign banks

*140. SHRI JIBON ROY: will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allowed foreign banks operating in the country to acquire real estate; and

(b) if so, how many banks have so far acquired real estate together with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has intimated that foreign banks are allowed to acquire immovable property in India only for the purpose of undertaking banking business and for housing their employees. Foreign banks are not allowed to acquire immovable property other than for their own use.

(b) RBI has reported that details of the properties acquired by foreign banks are not readily available as the data reporting system does not generate such information.

Modifications in the policies of privatisation of value added services

874. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the telecom commission has decided to review and make necessary modification in the policies for and modalities of privatisation of value added services such as electronic mail, voice mail, satellite networks and audiotex;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the licences for electronics mail alleged that the D.O.T. was imposing unnecessary, unreasonable and unsustainable conditions and thus making it impossible for licence to operate the services as a viable business;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the out-come of a special meeting between the commission and repesentatives of industrial sector, recently in the month of January, 1994?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir. The terms and conditions have been modified|liberalised with a view to promote value added services.

(b) The details of old revised terms and conditions are given, in the Statement. (*See* below).

(c) to (e) No Sir. However, some of the companies have made representations for liberalising the terms and conditions. A meeting was held with prospective service providers and based on their suggestions the terms and conditions were liberalised as already mentioned above. Four companies have already signed the licence agreement for Electronics Mail Service.